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The Southern PATRIOT

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WASHINGTON Is Saying

By Elizabeth Allen

Election Afterthoughts. . .

When the new Congress meets, the Democratic Party will have a majority in both the House and Senate. But does a Democratic majority mean that Mr. Roosevelt will have a Congress that will support him?

On the Peace, I believe that it will. There will be a small number of men who still cling on to isolationist points of view: Wiley, Taft, Tobey, Johnson of California, and perhaps one or two more on the Republican side; Wheeler and Walsh on the Democratic side. But the election showed too clearly the overwhelming sentiment of the country toward international cooperation for many men to dare stand against the will of the people.

Unholy Alliance Stands

But when it comes to domestic legislation, the picture is not so rosy. The unholy alliance of Republicans and Southern poll taxers who represent northern money rather than the Southern people, still stands. Add to this group the Southern Congressmen who still have a feudal point of view: the Smiths of Virginia, the Gathings of Arkansas—and one wonders whether the President's measures can expect support. It sometimes seems the greatest irony of fate that the South which has benefited so much from the New Deal should send to Congress the men who seem most intent on destroying it.

If it were only possible to separate the sheep from the goats and send the goats into the Republican Party!

1948 Prediction

This may not sound funny a few years from now, because the Republicans made decided gains in the South, particularly in Virginia. For many years the Republican Party has consisted of a small collection of office holders and a few Negroes, attracted by memories of Lincoln and the Emancipation—memories that have grown cold and corrupted in the minds of the present Republican leadership.

But the character of the Republican Party is changing in the South. I predict that more and more the anti-New

(Continued on Page 8.)

Rainey's Ouster At Texas U. Rouses Wide Protest

College In Danger - As Reckless Regents Fire South's Top Educator

The University of Texas, largest and richest seat of learning in the South, is in danger. Reckless Regents, in a corporation-dominated Board, have fired the college President, one of the South's outstanding citizens, and its leading educator, Dr. Homer Price Rainey.

This action, taken behind closed doors the night of November 1, the culmination of a long series of repressive measures against the University perpetrated by the multi-millionaire Board of Regents, has roused the indignation of the college's students, faculty and alumni. From every corner of the Lone Star State, as well as the South and the Nation, protests are pouring in to Texas Governor Coke Stevenson.

The history of the conflict at the University is the history of a well-organized attempt to crush academic freedom, to proscribe liberal educators and indoctrinate young Texans with the reactionary ideology which led virtually every Regent to participate actively in the anti-Roosevelt campaign.

Texans fear that unless the Governor takes steps to reinstate Dr. Rainey at once, the college will lose its accredited rating. This would, in effect, ruin the University, making its degrees useless, and entailing a wholesale exodus of faculty and students.

Dr. Rainey's Record

Born Clarksville, Texas, 1896.

Ordained Baptist minister at 19 and given charge of second largest Baptist church in Texas. (Sherman.)

Worked his way through University of Texas.

Did Graduate work at U. of Chicago on Rockefeller Foundation fellowship. Took Ph.D. from U. of Chicago.

Named professor at University of Oregon.

Named President of Franklin College at Franklin, Indiana.

Named President of Bucknell University at Lewisburg, Penn.

Named Director of the American Youth Commission, a part of the American Council on Education (Owen D. Young, Chairman).

Chosen President of University of Texas, in 1938.

The Regents' Record

For example, Regent John Bickett is counsel for Southwestern Bell Telephone Company; Regent D. F. Strickland is lobbyist for Interstate Theatres and owns a tremendous estate in the Rio Grande Valley; Regent Scott Schreiner is a member of the family which owns the town of Kerrville, Texas, and is connected with large banking interests in San Antonio; Regent Orville Bullington, former Republican candidate for governor, is a wealthy oilman. These men were appointed by ex governor W. Lee O'Daniels, and Pappy's friend, close-mouthed Governor Coke Stevenson, who has never openly committed himself on any issue except gasoline rationing, which he opposed.

Secretary Ralph Hinstead of the American Association of University Professors, has already stated, after a personal investigation, that Dr. Rainey's dismissal indicated "a complete disregard of the principles of good academic practice and bodes ill for the future of the University."

(Continued on Page 3.)

TRENDS

Georgia On His Mind

Progressive and intelligent plans for the future of Georgia have been outlined by Mr. Robert Strickland, president of the Trust Company of Georgia, and chairman of the industrial panel of the Agricultural and Development Board of Georgia. Of interest to all Southern states, who share Georgia's problems of illiteracy, tenant farms, public health, and low farm income, are the objectives of the panel. They include: (a) establishment of stable state revenue program, (b) erection of 100 vocational high schools, at least one-third of them for use of Georgia's Negro youth, and of equally high standards, (c) enlargement of public health services, (d) industrial expansion, with creation of numerous local processing plants for agricultural products.

Good News For GI's

Voters of Arkansas turned thumbs down on the poll tax on November 7, when they passed a constitutional amendment exempting all servicemen and women from payment of poll tax. Exemption is permanent. The proposal was given the biggest endorsement of any of the seven initiated measures on the ballot.

Co-op Saves Farmers $47,000

The Central Farmers Exchange of Mississippi, affiliated with the National Farmers Union, saved its members $47,000 last year on various operations of purchasing and marketing. Members of this cooperative were warned by Pres. Ralph Herrin that American fascists are going all-out in attempts to crush farmer-owned and operated co-ops, or any other program which helps the small farmer to be independent and self-sustaining. Spearhead of the present drive against Southern co-ops appears to be the National Tax Equality Ass'n.

Prefers Truth To Money

During the recent election the Columbia (S. C.) Record demonstrated a spirit of decency and fair play apparently not shared by other South Carolina dailies, when it flatly refused to publish an advertisement offered it by the "Southern Democratic Party." The ad, totaling approximately sixty inches, maligned the national Democratic party and the Negro race, claiming itself to be "truly democratic and 100 per cent white." Protesting the irrationality and unfairness of the ad, the Record offered to publish it if objectionable portions were removed. This the "Southern Democrats" refused to do.

Liberty vs. Intolerance

By WILLIAM GREEN,
President, American Federation of Labor

The very forces which promote racial and religious hatreds are destructive to freedom and democracy. Intolerance and liberty cannot live side by side within any nation or within our world. They are deadly enemies. We know now that Hitler's way of death is the supreme threat to the American way of life. By the same token we must accept the fact that the existence and spread of racial and religious hatred within our own country are likewise dangerous to American democracy.

Today we are engaged in a global war for the survival of that democracy. Yet occasionally we hear Americans, whose sons are risking their lives against the enemy overseas, give aid and comfort to the enemy by voicing hate and disparagement of racial and religious groups in their own communities. Anyone who does this is betraying his own blood and his own humanity.

Labor Goes To Court

The American Federation of Labor has announced its determination to fight the anti-closed shop amendments passed by Florida and Arkansas "all the way to the Supreme Court" if necessary. The same amendment was defeated two to one in California. Meanwhile, the Christian American Association, which sponsored the anti-labor bills, planned to try to extend this vicious legislation to other states. AFL believes the amendments are "clearly unconstitutional."

Pappy Gets The Bird

It has been stated that there is no political fury like that of a Texan once aroused. Considerable fury seems to have converged on Sen. Pappy O'Daniels recently in Houston, when he essayed one of his usual anti-Roosevelt, anti-labor tirades over the air. Radio listeners heard sour notes in the background of his speech, as the studio audiences alternated cries of "we want Roosevelt" with boos and catcalls for the Senator.

The House That CIO Built

In the boom city of Front Royal, Virginia, war workers represented by a local of the Textile Workers Union have undertaken to settle the question of costs and standards of housing for war workers. As the tire cord plant in that city is expected to operate fully in the post-war period, the union protested against construction of unattractive temporary dwelling units to be rented or sold at exorbitant prices, arguing that workers need permanent homes which they can buy without large down payments or can rent at about $30 a month. To prove their idea practical and feasible, the union purchased land and has begun construction of a "demonstration" 6-room house, to cost about $4,000, using the services of a local contractor and paying union wage scales. The two-story masonry structure will include modern bathroom, kitchen, lighting and heating equipment. The experiment is being closely watched by the private building industry and by federal housing agencies.

Another County Heard From---

Gov. Arnall says:

"I cannot understand how any man can oppose federal aid to education. Some oppose it on the 'state's rights' plea. But most of those who raise the 'state's rights' cry just mean they don't want anything done for the people."—*Gov. Ellis Arnall of Georgia, addressing Georgia Association of School Administrators.*

Sen. Pepper says:

"Ever since I have been a member of the Senate, I have had to experience humiliation every time a bill came up involving such questions as that now before the Senate (Kilgore-Murray Reconversion bill) for it was said that wages had to be lowered and salaries had to be lowered and that benefits had to be lowered to my beloved Southland, because we were expected to continue to preserve a measure of penury and poverty.

"My God, Mr. President, when will all areas of the country be emancipated; when will they become wholly American and when will we legislate for the Nation, and not with caution and timid reserve about certain areas of the country, that need most the strong arm of the Nation's assistance?"—*Sen. Claude Pepper of Florida, speaking in the Senate.*

Bishop Kern says:

"I am not pleading for anything which has not been made mandatory by the war. Christianity will never be safe until there is no arrant and aggressive paganism in the world. And there will be no place in tomorrow's Christianity for petty and provincial thinkings. If giving up your race prejudice is a thing you cannot brook, take the argument up with your New Testament, not with me."—*Methodist Bishop Paul B. Kern, address to Holston Conference, Knoxville, Tenn.*

REINSTATE RAINEY, CRIES TEXAS

(Continued from Page 1.)

Over a period of years, this Board has attempted time after time to curtail the freedom of the University. Four actions indicate their purpose and tactics:

1. In 1942, the Board summarily fired without charges or hearing, three economics instructors, for attending a meeting in Dallas, Texas, sponsored by the National Association of Manufacturers, and attempting to tell the truth about the Wage-Hour Act.

2. In 1943, the Board banned John Dos Passos' novel *USA* from the English reading list, and tried to pin the responsibility for selecting the book on one person, with the stated purpose of firing him, an act prevented only when the English Department insisted the entire Department was responsible.

3. Members of the Board attempted to abolish the University rule of faculty tenure, and when Dr. Rainey's support of job security for the teachers was upheld by the State Attorney General's Office, the Board revised the rule to weaken it.

4. The Board has turned down appropriation after appropriation for research in social science by faculty members, recommended by the University Research Council, even though funds were available for the purpose, because it "disapproved" of the subjects of the research projects.

Rainey Asks For Freedom

These are only four of sixteen specific examples of Regent interference cited by Dr. Rainey.

Just three weeks later, the Board of Regents met and ordered Dr. Rainey to retract his charges. When he refused, they voted 6-2 to dismiss him, offering no explanation, but that "the interest of the University requires it."

However, the citizens of Texas, who had seen Dr. Rainey's capable and efficient administration bring consistent improvement to the University, thought differently.

The morning after Dr. Rainey was fired, nearly every student in the University joined in a march to the Capitol to demand that Governor Stevenson reinstate their President. In a grim funeral procession for academic freedom, the students carried signs reading: "Youth fights the war, the Regents fight Youth;" and "We're fighting Hitlerism abroad, we will fight it at home."

The University faculty joined in a unanimous demand for the reinstatement of Dr. Rainey, as did the Ex-Students Association; and civic and church leaders all over Texas.

Shall We Record In The Minutes That Dr. Rainey Had No Comment?

That other great educator of the South, Dr. Frank P. Graham, President of the University of North Carolina and Honorary Chairman of the Southern Conference for Human Welfare, spoke for the whole South, when he wired:

"As a North Carolinian proud of his Texas birth, I wish to protest against the outrage of the dismissal of such a great educator and humanitarian from the presidency of the University of Texas. The Regents are doing for the University what Bilbo and Talmadge did to the Universities of Mississippi and Georgia. It is the faith of millions who love Texas who will rise up and demand the retention of Rainey as a great American for the leadership of one of America's really great state universities.

As Dr. Graham indicates, the dismissal of Dr. Rainey is a blow not only at the University of Texas, but at every institution in the South, and against all thinking people everywhere. The University of Texas can be saved, if enough protest is directed to Governor Coke Stevenson, who bears direct responsibility for the dismissal. Your protest should demand the immediate reinstatement of President Rainey, and also the appointment of capable Regents.

Sign and Mail Today!

Governor Coke Stevenson
Austin, Texas

Dear Governor Stevenson:

I believe that the dismissal of Dr. Homer Price Rainey as President of the University of Texas is a serious blow to the University, to Southern education and to the freedom we are fighting for today.

I urge you to reinstate Dr. Rainey immediately, and further to appoint men of wisdom, understanding and experience to the positions now vacant on the Board of Regents.

Name _____

Address _____

Title or Organization _____

Write Now

The Lame Duck Congress is now in session, and many important measures are pending.

Permanent F.E.P.C.

One of the most urgent is the bill providing for a permanent Fair Employment Practices Committee. Both parties pledged to support this legislation during the election campaign; but certain Southern poll-taxers, led by Senator Russell of Georgia, have already threatened to wage a bitter fight against it. Russell claims to speak for the Southern people in his wild statements that the bill would "nationalize industry." We therefore face a special responsibility to lend strong support to Senate bill, S-2048 and House Bill HR 3986.

1. Write to your own two Senators, asking for their specific pledge to support S-2048, and send us copies of your letters for publicity purposes.

2. Write to Senate Majority Leader, Alben W. Barkley (D-Ky.) and Senate Minority Leader Wallace White, Jr. (R-Me.) urging fulfillment of the parties' campaign pledges by bringing S-2048 up in the Senate immediately and working for its passage.

3. Write to Rep. Mary T. Norton, urging her committee report HR 3986 favorably to the House without delay.

Delay may be fatal. Urge immediate action, before the present Congress expires on January 2, 1945.

Protect Soldiers From Mobs

Another of the bills facing Congress is a measure which will give federal protection to all members of the armed forces against any form of assault. Known as S 1227, the bill has already passed the Senate and now needs passage by the House.

S 1227 is intended to insure federal prosecution of anyone who assaults members of the armed forces—Negro or white. In many shameful instances in the past, local and state authorities refused to act against such offenders. There have been a series of assaults and even murders of Negro soldiers in many Southern states by police, bus drivers and others, and in no single instance, has proper punishment of the offenders resulted.

S. 1227 was passed by the Senate a year and a half ago and sent to the lower House. On May 27, 1944, a subcommittee of the Judiciary Committee reported it favorably, but since that time the Bill has been buried.

1. Write Hatton Sumners, Chairman of the Judiciary Committee, urging immediate action on the bill. Send us a copy of your letter.

We Salute
"Beanie" Baldwin

Outstanding among the Southerners who deserve much credit for the reelection of Franklin D. Roosevelt is "Beanie" Baldwin, Assistant Director of the Political Action Committee. "Beanie" has a good name—C. Benham Baldwin—but few of his friends have ever used it. He was born and raised in Virginia, and lived at Radford, until he came to Washington with the Agriculture Department. It was while he was working in the Farm Security Administration that his qualities of courage and determination became most apparent.

As head of the F.S.A., he had to spend a great deal of his time fighting the reactionaries in Congress, especially "Cotton Ed" Smith. Capitol Hill observers will long remember their fights in the Senate Agriculture Committee, when Cotton Ed accused "Beanie" of being an outlandish "furriner" trying to destroy such "sacred institutions of the South" as sharecropping and the poll tax, and "Beanie" would spring up like a fighting cock to declare, "My grandfather, sir, fought with the Confederacy, and I am as good a Southerner as you!"

"Beanie" showed the same fighting qualities in his work for Roosevelt with the PAC, and one of the first victims of PAC's drive for a more progressive Congress was none other than "Cotton Ed" himself.

An able crew of young Southerners has assisted "Beanie" in the Political Action Committee; among them, Clark Foreman, Palmer Weber, George Mitchell, Jim Dombrowski, John Beecher and Stetson Kennedy. It is men like these who represent the new spirit stirring in the South.

Let your congressman know you're watching him.

Letters To THE PATRIOT

To the Editor:

Would it do your heart and the cause of The Southern Patriot good to have the assurance that there are Southern young people who attempt to think clearly—yes, those who would even be Christian?

I have been particularly interested in the causes for which you stand. The greatest satisfaction of my life was from the contribution I was able to make to Negro education in one county in Georgia, as County Superintendent of Schools.

Although I am in the Army, I would be happy to make any possible contribution to inter-racial relations, or in doing my part toward the making of our precious American democracy more precious, and thus more nearly perfect. Many of us could fight and die more vigorously and easily if some undemocratic features of our society were removed.

Yes! The "Brotherhood of Man and the Kingdom of God" can be realized on earth, if we will practice more and more of the spirit, love and wisdom of Christ. All good wishes to you and the efforts of the Southern Patriot.

Sgt. Carroll Long
Marfa, Texas

* * *

Postal Workers Plea

To the Editor:

One of the largest, most deserving, yet most neglected groups of workers in our employment structure is the great essential civilian army employed by the U. S. Government in the vast postal system. It is not generally known by the public that the Government pays postal workers approximately 20% less compensation for overtime than for regular time under the 40 hour week.

Congress gave Government workers the 40 hour week several years ago, and raised postal workers pay from 86c an hour to $1.04 an hour. But the Postal Department still uses the antiquated 1925 law and wages when computing overtime, and postal workers who make $1.04 an hour for regular time get only 86c an hour for all over forty hours.

Most organized workers draw time and one-half for overtime. Postal workers are entitled to like treatment. Congress should not permit this shameful discrimination to continue.

Malcolm A. Green
Austin, Texas

AND DON'T FORGET TO WRITE GOVERNOR COKE STEVENSON PROTESTING THE DISMISSAL OF DR. HOMER T. RAINEY!

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THE SOUTHERN CONFERENCE FOR HUMAN WELFARE

Officers

ALVA W. TAYLOR, *Secretary-Treasurer* — CLARK FOREMAN, *President*

JAMES A. DOMBROWSKI, *Executive Secretary and Editor*

Sam Jones and His Miracle!

On March 6, 1943, Sam Jones, then Governor of Louisiana, wrote an article for the Saturday Evening Post, about the "tide of insurgency which is rolling up in Dixie" against President Roosevelt and the New Deal, and he predicted that only a "miracle" could "save" the Democratic Party in the South.

Jones' war cry was echoed in every corner of the South—by Governor Frank Dixon in Alabama; "Pappy" O'Daniels in Texas; "Cotton Ed" Smith in South Carolina; and by the editorial writers on virtually every newspaper. These were powerful forces—but on November 7, the people of the South proved they were even more powerful.

Revolt Without Voters

For once more, those Southerners who could cast ballots, cast them overwhelmingly for Franklin D. Roosevelt; and the much-touted "Southern Democratic Party" and its Texas counterpart, the "Regulars" polled only negligible amounts in the few states where they appeared on the ballot.

Yes, the "Southern Revolt" had failed, or more accurately, it had never had any popular support. Because its plotters knew they were without popular strength, they conspired from the beginning to deliver electoral votes to an anti-Roosevelt candidate, regardless of popular vote.

It was the people's revulsion to this treasonous conspiracy that was the real "Southern revolt". We can be proud indeed of the people of Texas and Mississippi, of Louisiana and South Carolina, who struck down the "rebels" in their wrath.

Spotting the Enemy

We have learned some important lessons from this victory:

—We have learned to recognize our enemies—the poll tax politicians backed by "big money" from both North and South. We remember the Senate investigation of O'Daniel's financial sources showed virtually all of it was donated in sums of $1,000 or over. We note that "The Southern Weekly" carries frequent full-page ads from the Chase National Bank.

—We have learned to distrust and combat our enemies' specious arguments. "The Southern Weekly", Texas magazine offering leadership to the Texas "Regulars", typically based its entire campaign on two lies—that the Roosevelt Administration was "Negro-dominated" and "Communist-controlled". We have learned to suspect the motives of the race-baiters and the red-baiters—as they copy their slander from Hitler's textbooks.

—And, finally, we are beginning to learn our own strength. We have learned that the little Southern people can win—in spite of the powerful interests arrayed against them, in spite of ignorance and disfranchisement. We are confident that many more victories are ahead.

From The Southern Press

Tennessee Poll Tax

From the Nashville Tennessean, Nov. 12, 1944

The new governor will have this opportunity—of employing the prestige of his office and person to restore the means of democratic government into the hands of the people of Tennessee.

It is his greatest in the eyes of history.

He can call a constitutional convention to remove the blight of the vote tax from the political life of the state and settle the poll tax issue forever.

And he can lend his support to the various pieces of legislation competent to give the people relief from the poll tax at once.

The tax can and should be forgiven all members of the armed services forever.

It can be cut to fifty cents.

It can be lifted from the primary elections entirely. It can be lifted from women entirely. It can be lifted, as a revenue tax, from the owners of property. It can be abated as a vote tax by repeal of laws requiring the presentation of a poll tax receipt before voting.

The political parties of the state are pledged to restore the free vote. The electorate has demanded it. The legislature has acted to restore it. And the decencies of humanity no less than the cardinal purpose of our political organization call for the clearance of the right to vote in Tennessee.

It remains to be done.

Stand For F. E. P. C.

From the Durham, N. C., Morning Herald, Sept. 11, 1944

"Equal opportunity has nothing whatever to do with 'social equality'—whatever those words mean. Equal opportunity means just what it says—a chance for everyone according to his character and abilities, plus equal pay for equal work. This, and no more, is what the Fair Employment Practices Committee has stood for and does stand for.

"A strong fight is ahead if a permanent FEPC is not to be blocked.

"There are no new arguments against discrimination. There are just the old ones. It is unfair. It is undemocratic. It is un-American. Or, if such an appeal falls on deaf ears, we may add that it breaks down wage levels by creating a sub-marginal class. It creates racial strife in which the white man suffers just as much as the Negro—maybe more. It hurts us among our friends abroad. Wise, civilized and patriotic Americans will take their stand against it."

BOOKS IN BRIEF

Poll Tax Politics

Democracy Begins at Home, by Jennings Perry (Lippincott, $3).

Jennings Perry deserves the thanks of every Southerner for his unflagging and brilliant battle against the poll tax. This recent valuable and eloquent book is only one of his many outstanding contributions to that campaign—a contribution that will surely bring the fight to an earlier and more decisive victory.

Democracy Begins at Home is the exciting tale of poll tax politics in Tennessee. Full of action, it bares the inside story of the one-man rule of Memphis, Boss Ed Crump, and tells the thrilling story of the fight for poll tax repeal in Tennessee, as well as the other seven afflicted states.

Jennings Perry has been the Tom Paine of the anti-poll tax fight. As editor of the Nashville *Tennessean* and Chairman of the National Committee to Abolish the Poll Tax, his stirring words have awakened thousands to the evils of the vicious poll tax system.

Perry is right when he predicts that the day "when the neutral mass of people living unsuspected in the basement of the American house—the day these people get the ballot, they will tower above the machine bosses and unreconstructed oligarchies whose jealousies, prejudices, greed and duplicity have "fastened the mask of bourbonism on the South."

Anti-Slavery Mountaineer

Deep River, by Henrietta Buckmaster (Harcourt Brace, $3).

Miss Buckmaster, in her historical novel, *Deep River*, continues in the splendid new tradition of Howard Fast in *Freedom Road* and Frances Gaither in *The Red Cock Crows*, exposing ably and thoroughly the so-long-matured myths of the pre-Civil War South.

Her novel deals mainly with the non-slaveholding whites in the years just prior to the outbreak of war, dramatizing their struggle against the relatively small slaveholding class—a struggle long hidden and distorted by historians.

How many Southerners know that milions of the non-slaveowning farmers in the South hated slavery, which oppressed them, economically and socially? That the people were not allowed to vote in the so-called secession conventions and congresses, and that millions opposed secession? That large sections of these whites remained loyal to the Union throughout the war?

Jennings Perry
Poll Tax Abolitionist

This is the story of Simon Bliss, fine, hardworking Georgia farmer, from his earliest doubts about the cruel institution of slavery through his final revolt with five other legislators to vote against secession. Simon is a Jeffersonian and his passion for freedom rings through the novel. The final triumph of his cause is best shown in Jefferson Davis' hesitant tribute which credited mountain men like Simon with the final defeat of the Confederacy.

This book is a "must" for a real understanding of the South as it is today.

We are glad to see that Edgar Snow's recent book, *People On Our Side*, is breaking sales records. Snow's descriptions of his travels in India, China and the Soviet Union shed much light on our allies and their problems, as those who read his earlier books, *Battle for Asia* and *Red Star Over China* might well have expected.

"Wages of Agriculture in the United States," a 193-page survey prepared by the department of Agriculture, is available free from the Division of Economic Information, Bureau of Agricultural Economics, U. S. Department of Agriculture, Washington.

Readers Digest Fair or Foul?

Have you seen a copy of the Reader's Digest lately? In it, did you read anything more than the short items on light subjects and the humorous anecdotes at the bottom of the pages? If you have read even casually the serious articles of the last few years, you may recall that in those articles you read some rather disquieting things. Nothing too outspoken—just sly little hints that we are fools to trust Britain and Russia, that our South American allies laugh and sneer at us in contempt for our money-wasting Good Neighbor policies, that labor unions are nothing more or less than Communist lairs, under direct control of Moscow, that perhaps it's silly to insist on fighting this war to a finish.

All this from a magazine which professes to have no specific editorial policy, no axes to grind, but claims to be an unbiased and impartial digest of the current periodical press!

Over a year ago the 8500 members of the National Council of Teachers of English, alarmed by growing evidence that the Reader's Digest was using its reputation as a reprint magazine for propaganda purposes, decided to make an analysis of material appearing in the Digest.

Findings of the Committee, as reported in the Chicago *Sun*, show these shocking facts about the so-called "reprint" magazine. Of the articles appearing during a 19-month period from January 1943 through July 1944:

—45 per cent were seen by the editors of the Digest before appearing in any newspaper or magazine.

—33 per cent were editorially "planned" (in effect, written in accordance with instructions from the Digest).

—19 per cent of those appearing only in the Digest or later reprinted in the Digest were signed by editors of the Reader's Digest.

This magazine printed slanderous stories smearing unions, government policy in South America, and the National Youth Administration, and contrary to publishing ethics which provide for a fair hearing, refused absolutely to make retractions or to print the other side of the stories.

The significance of these combined facts can hardly be overestimated. If this magazine—with a circulation estimated at fifty million, used in schools as study material, accepting no advertising and therefore supposedly under no pressure—has become not a disinterested reporter but a frank organ of reaction, the American public should take notice of the fact.

CIO Comes To Small Farmers Aid; Foils 'Callaway' Hired-Hand Plan

In September, THE PATRIOT exposed the dangerous scheme of millionaire landlord Cason J. Callaway of Hamilton, Georgia, calling for banks and corporations to buy up farms and hire people to run them. THE PATRIOT warned against this serious threat to the livelihood of small Southern farmers, pointing out that this nefarious plan would reduce farmers to hired hands, at a time when every constructive farm program should aid in the creation of more and more independent family-sized farms.

We therefore asked Southern author Stetson Kennedy for a blow-by-blow account of the battle against the Callaway Plan, as it shaped up in Georgia.

The glorified "Callaway Plan" which has sought to get Georgia businessmen to establish 100 corporations of 10 men each, with each man contributing $1,000 for the purchase of 100 100-acre "demonstration" farms, has been undermined by a succession of events set in motion by public questioning of the plan by Charles H. Gillman, Georgia regional director of the CIO.

In an open letter to Cason J. Callaway, sponsor of the plan and owner of a 28,000-acre "super-farm" at Hamilton, Georgia, Gillman on September 20 asked for "assurance that the plan will not develop into an attempt by financial and business interest to monopolize agriculture."

Citing the CIO's program of supporting the family-size farm as the backbone of American agriculture, Gillman declared: "The CIO wants to see farmers living in good homes on good land of their own, raising good crops and selling them in good markets. To accomplish this, we believe government credit and government show-how are necessary. We don't think the goal of American farmers is to become managers of Callaway Plan corporation chain farms at $75 a month."

A Real Farm Program

At about the same time, James G. Patton, president of the National Farmers Union, issued a statement in which he declared: "The Callaway Plan recalls the scheme used by Georgia bankers three or four years ago to undermine the credit program of the FSA. . . . Farm security requires real programs of rural housing, electrification, health, education, reclamation, irrigation, reforestation, and the removal of discriminatory freight rates. The Callaway Plan does not face up to these needs."

Gillman's letter coincided with these views, and asked for clarification of Callaway Plan policy as follows:

1. How can Callaway Plan farms pay off unless they expand?
2. Since the farms are to be mechanized, will they follow the usual practice of corporation farms and ruthlessly tractor small farmers off the land?
3. Will the customary corporation farm policy of "hire-and-fire" be followed?
4. If Callaway Plan farm managers are to be paid $75 per month, what is to be paid farm laborers?
5. If the backers of the Callaway Plan are opposed to government farm credit, is private credit prepared to meet the need for long-term, low-interest farm loans?
6. What about U. S. employment service, social security, collective bargaining, and government programs to improve the housing and health of farm workers?
7. Whether the financiers of the processing plants envisaged by the Callaway Plan would not be in a position to demand that small farmers sell to them at dictated prices in return for crop loans?

Nationwide Interest

As the Callaway Plan had attracted nationwide attention among agriculturists, the wire service moved Gillman's letter North as well as South.

The following day, both the Atlanta Journal and Constitution ran lead editorials on Gillman's letter. Both papers were obliged to make light of his questions, as both had gone all-out in publicizing the Callaway Plan. The Constitution, moreover, is the owner of a corporation farm; and the Journal had had a staff reporter assigned to Callaway's farm for months.

"Petulant . . . ill-advised . . . ridiculous . . ." said the Constitution of Gillman's letter.

"Mr. Gillman asks academic questions . . ." echoed the Journal.

Neither paper made any serious attempt to answer the questions Gillman raised; and both reassured the public that the Callaway Plan is not only harmless but a very fine thing indeed. Recognizing that this committed both papers to attack the Callaway Plan should it ever prove harmful, Gillman publicly welcomed the editorial assurances.

Belatedly, Callaway despatched an open letter of reply to Gillman, in which he admitted "It is not The Plan, but a plan," and suggested that if Mr. Gillman wished to know more about it he should study the press reports, past and future.

Farm Owner or Hired Hand?

While there is no means of estimating the total number of letters-to-the-editors which came in as a result of Gillman's open letter, they must have been numerous if those published during the ensuing weeks were any indication. Most of those published enthusiastically endorsed Gillman's views.

"Little has been mentioned in the press concerning the man with the hoe," said a typical letter from the grass-roots, which concluded that the Callaway Plan was striving to "create a system whereby the businessman would garner the profit, and the farmer do the work."

Meanwhile in Washington, Georgia's Rep. Robert Ramspeck wrote War Food Administrator Marvin Jones suggesting that Federal agricultural agencies might wish to support the Callaway Plan nationally. Replied Mr. Jones (copies to the press): "One of the traditional policies of our government . . . is promotion of the individually-owned and operated family farm. . . . We assume that an opportunity will be given the farm family to purchase this land from the corporation, although it is not specifically mentioned in Mr. Callaway's plan." Therefore, said Mr. Jones, "a further study is being made into the merits of the proposal."

The Last Straw

This was evidently the last straw. On October 6th the Journal's resident reporter at the Callaway Farm sent in a story which was headed "Callaway Sees Mint as Possible Georgia Crop." In the 10th and final paragraph, Callaway came across with the admission: "I hope to see these small farms auctioned off at the courthouse after five or six years, or else sold to the men who have been running them for the corporations."

—Stetson Kennedy